

Rejection of claims 1-48 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

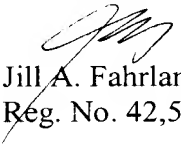
Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 13-16, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Smith *et al.* (U.S. 6,027,945).

As the Examiner correctly asserts, Smith *et al.* discloses methods of isolating biological target materials using silica magnetic particles. However, Smith *et al.* does not disclose a silanized silica matrix, as required by claims 1-4, 7, 8, 13-16, 18, and 19, drawn to methods employing a silanized silica matrix. Applicants respectfully submit that, because Smith *et al.* does not teach all of the claim limitations, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is improper and should be withdrawn.

As the application is now in condition for allowance, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of all claims.

No fee is believed due in connection with this response. However, if a fee is owed, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0842.

Respectfully submitted,



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